



**International Conference on:
“Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives:
Digital Innovation and Value Chains”
13 - 15 February 2025
At VAMNICOM Pune India**



**CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
TRAINING IN AGRICULTURAL BANKING (CICTAB) PUNE**

“We believe that cooperatives can bring new energy to global cooperation. we must innovate and create new pathways for international collaboration in cooperatives.”

--Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Theme of Conference:

Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives:
Digital Innovation and Value Chains

Sponsoring Organization:

Ministry of Cooperation, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Host Institute:

Centre for International Cooperation and Training in Agricultural
Banking, Pune, India

Venue:

VAMNICOM, Pune, India

Duration:

Three Days:13-15 February 2025

Introduction

Cooperatives are enterprises based on ethics, values, and principles. Through self-help and empowerment, reinvesting in their communities and concern for the well-being of people and the world in which we live, cooperatives nurture a long-term vision for sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental responsibility. More than 12% of humanity is part of any of the 3 million cooperatives in the world! The largest 300 cooperatives and mutuals report a total turnover of 2,409.41 billion USD, according to the World Cooperative Monitor (2023). Cooperatives contribute to the sustainable economic growth and stable, quality employment, providing jobs or work opportunities to 280 million people across the globe, in other words, 10% of the world's employed population.

To make 2025 United Nations International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) with the theme Cooperatives Build a Better World, showcasing the enduring global impact cooperatives have everywhere. This theme puts a spotlight on how the cooperative model is an essential solution to overcome many global challenges and continues to play an important role in accelerating efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The theme highlights the impact cooperatives have on the world and how they can help overcome global challenges. It also emphasizes the role cooperatives play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030

From last 40 years CICTAB is serving as platform for its 39 member institutions in SAARC counties for exchange of their experiences related to good practices, increase partnership and collaborations required to help the grassroot level peoples, digital technologies and innovations in ease of technology etc.

About CICTAB:

The Centre for International Cooperation and Training in Agricultural Banking (CICTAB) was established to strengthen cooperative institutions and rural development through specialized training and capacity-building programs. With a legacy spanning several decades, CICTAB has been instrumental in enhancing the skills of professionals working in the cooperative and rural banking sectors across South Asia. It has facilitated international collaborations and knowledge-sharing platforms that empower cooperatives to integrate modern financial and technological solutions. Over the years, CICTAB has been at the forefront of cooperative development, digital inclusion, and financial empowerment in the region.

International Year of Cooperatives 2025

The year 2025 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Cooperatives, acknowledging the critical role cooperatives play in promoting economic inclusion, social equity, and sustainable business practices. This global recognition provides an opportunity to highlight the achievements of cooperatives in agriculture, finance, industry, and services, reinforcing their potential as key drivers of economic growth. The CICTAB International Conference 2025 will celebrate this milestone by showcasing how cooperatives can further embrace digital transformation, strengthen their value chains, and create inclusive growth models that benefit communities worldwide.

Conference Theme:

The theme of the conference, "Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives: Digital Innovation and Value Chains," underscores the pivotal role of cooperatives in fostering economic growth, inclusivity, and technological advancement. This forum will facilitate discussions on how cooperatives can leverage digital tools to modernize traditional structures, enhance market access, and build sustainable value chains.

As the world transitions towards a digital economy, cooperatives must adapt to emerging trends in technology, financial inclusion, and sustainable business practices. Digital transformation enables cooperatives to streamline operations, provide better services to their members, and scale their impact beyond traditional markets. The integration of blockchain, AI-driven analytics, mobile banking, and digital credit facilities can revolutionize cooperative management, making them more efficient and resilient in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Additionally, value chain integration is critical for cooperatives to maximize their potential in agriculture, dairy, fisheries, finance, and other key sectors. By adopting robust value chain strategies, cooperatives can ensure fair pricing, enhanced market access, and sustainable production practices that benefit both producers and consumers. This conference will delve into strategies for cooperatives to optimize their supply chain networks, establish international trade linkages, and create new business opportunities.

Exhibition: Showcasing Cooperative Innovations

Alongside the conference, a three-day exhibition will provide a platform for cooperatives, farmer producer organizations (FPOs), startups, and industry stakeholders to present their products, services, and innovations. The exhibition will feature:

- Marketplace for cooperatives and FPOs to showcase their business models and products.
- Digital innovations in cooperative value chains, including AI, blockchain, and automation.
- Opportunities for networking between policymakers, cooperative leaders, and technology providers.
- Startup incubation and entrepreneurship development for cooperative-based businesses.
- Collaborations between cooperatives and private enterprises for sustainability and growth.

Prominent participants in the exhibition include AMUL, NABARD-supported SHGs and FPOs, NAFED, TRIFED, AI Lab for Cooperative Innovation, ICAR-IVRI, and various cooperative startups incubated at VAMNICOM.

Conference Highlights

- Plenary Sessions featuring global experts on digital innovations in cooperatives, sustainable value chains, and emerging economic opportunities.
- Case Study Showcases on successful cooperative models from India, South Asia, Africa, and beyond.
- Exhibitions and Networking Opportunities to connect with cooperative leaders, financial institutions, policymakers, and technology providers.
- Study Visits to leading cooperatives, providing real-world insights into best practices and successful cooperative governance models.

Case Study Presentations: Learning from Success Stories

This conference will feature a series of case study presentations showcasing best practices in cooperative governance, financial sustainability, and digital transformation. These case studies will cover diverse sectors, including agriculture, dairy, fisheries, rural banking, and women-led cooperatives. Representatives from successful cooperative enterprises in India, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and other nations will share their experiences in overcoming challenges and building resilient, member-driven organizations. These insights will serve as valuable lessons for cooperatives looking to modernize and expand their impact.

Key Sessions & Discussions

- ▶ **Digital Innovations in Cooperatives:** Exploring blockchain-based supply chains, mobile banking solutions, and AI-driven market intelligence.
- ▶ **Challenges and Opportunities in Value Chains:** Addressing issues such as procurement, logistics, branding, and market integration for cooperatives.
- ▶ **Sustainability in Cooperative Value Chains:** Showcasing models that integrate environmental responsibility, fair trade practices, and economic viability.
- ▶ **Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives:** Strategies for cooperatives to remain competitive, inclusive, and financially sustainable in a rapidly evolving economic landscape.

Expected Participants

- More than 100 participants representing over 15 countries from Asia and Africa.
- Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India
- Representatives from SAARC, APRACA, and CIRDAP
- Senior officials from NABARD, NIRD & PR, and IIMs
- Leaders from national and international cooperative federations
- Academicians, researchers, and policymakers
- Technology innovators and financial sector experts
- Grassroots cooperative leaders and social entrepreneurs

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Chief Patron:

Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, IAS
Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India

Organising Secretary:

Dr. Hema Yadav, Director, CICTAB & VAMNICOM

Duration:

Three Days:13-15 February 2025

Venue:

Vaikunt Mehata National Institute of Cooperative Management, Ganeshkhind
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www.vamnicom.gov.in



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